

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 013361

O 071920Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3355

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 1778

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, ASEC, TD, CY, GY

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF ASSASSINATION PLOTS

REF: GEORGETOWN 1777 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FONMIN WILLS, AT OUR MEETING THIS MORNING (SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER 6- SEE REFTEL) REVEALED THAT BURNHAM AND HE HAD RECEIVED REPORTS OF ASSASSINATION PLOTS DIRECTED AGAINST THEM, POSSIBLY INVOLVING THE USG AS WELL AS CUBAN EXILE GROUPS. THESE REPORTS, PLUS THE RECENT BOMBINGS AND THE SEPTEMBER 6 ARTICLE IN THE "CHRONICLE"

(REFTEL), HAD AGAIN CAUSED A FUROR IN THE GOG. CONCERNING THE NEWS-PAPER ARTICLE, I SAID IT APPEARED TO BE THE WORK OF SOMEONE WHO WANTED TO DISRUPT US-GUYANESE RELATIONS AND THAT THE GOG SHOULD NOT TAKE SERIOUSLY ALLEGATIONS OF USG LINKS TO ANTI-CASTRO CUBAN GROUPS OR OF USG COMPLICITY IN ACTIONS AGAINST GUYANA. WILLS AGREED WITH ME, BUT SAID OTHER DID NOT. TO MINIMIZE THE DAMAGE TO US-GUYANESE RELATIONS AS WELL AS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THE CUBAN EXILE GROUPS, HE ASKED FOR DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXILE GROUPS. WILLS ADMITTED THAT THE CUBANS AND SOVIETS WERE CONSTANTLY STRIVING TO MAKE THE GUYANESE DEPEND UPON THEM AND WOULD ACTIVELY WORK TO DISCREDIT THE UNITED STATES. I RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDE ME WITH AS MUCH INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CORU, ITS

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AFFILIATES AND LEADERS AS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO GIVE TO WILLS.

APART FROM THE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED, I SENSE THAT WILLS AND OTHER GOG OFFICIALS ARE GENUINELY CONCERNED OVER THE PROSPECTS OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY, INCLUDING ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS, HERE.
END SUMMARY.

1. UPON MY ARRIVAL IN HIS OFFICE FOR OUR 9:00 A.M. MEETING, WILLS APOLOGIZED FOR BOTHERING ME AGAIN CONCERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF CUBAN EXILES. HE SAID THAT THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE WHICH HAD APPEARED YESTERDAY (REFTEL) HAD RAISED A CLAMOR AND THAT THE RECENT BOMBINGS, CUBAN EXILE ACTIVITIES AND ALLEGATIONS OF THEIR LINKS TO THE US WOULD BE FIRST PRIORITY ITEMS IN THE CABINET MEETING TO WHICH HE WAS GOING AT 10:30 A.M. I SUGGESTED THAT THE GOG SHOULD NOT TAKE SUCH ARTICLES SERIOUSLY; CLEARLY THE INTENT OF WHOEVER WROTE IT OR PROVIDED THE INFORMATION FOR IT WAS INTENT UPON DISRUPTING US-GUYANESE RELATIONS.

2. WILLS SAID HE AGREED WITH ME THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT LINKED TO SUCH ACTIVITIES AND THAT IT COULD WELL BE CASTRO CUBANS WHO WERE BEHIND SUCH ARTICLES BECAUSE THEY WISH TO DISCREDIT THE UNITED STATES (SEE PARA 6 BELOW FOR MORE ON THIS). IN THE CABINET MEETING HE WOULD BE FACED BY SOME PERSONS WHO WANTED TO BELIEVE EVERYTHING ADVERSE ABOUT THE US AND BY SOME OTHERS WHO, TO COVER THEIR OWN INCOMPETENCE, NEEDED TO FIND A "CONSCIOUS VILLAIN" IN EVERY SITUATION. MOREOVER, THE RECENT BOMBINGS, THE ARSON AT THE RICE MILL, AND BURNINGS OF SUGAR CANE WERE REAL. ALSO, A NEW DISTURBING ELEMENT HAD ENTERED THE PICTURE.

3. SINCE WE HAD TALKED LAST FRIDAY, HE AND BURNHAM HAD RECEIVED REPORTS OF ASSASSINATION PLOTS DIRECTED AGAINST THEM. A RELIABLE SOURCE IN NEW YORK (DESCRIBED BY WILLS AS ONE OF HIS PERSONAL SPIES ON CUBAN ACTIVITIES) HAD REPORTED TO WILLS THAT AN AMERICAN NAMED GIL NOBLE WHO WORKS ON A WABC TELEVISION PROGRAM CALLED "LIKE IT IS" (NOT "TAKE IT EASY" AS REPORTED REFTEL) HAD WARNED HIM OF A PLOT TO KILL PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER REID AND FONMIN WILLS. THE PLOT PRESUMABLY WAS BEING HATCHED BY A U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND CUBAN EXILES. IN ADDITION, BURNHAM HAD RECEIVED A REPORT THAT THE REVISTA DE LAS AMERICAS, PUBLISHED IN MEXICO RECENTLY (PERHAPS IN JULY) HAD AN ARTICLE SAYING BURNHAM HAD BEEN TARGETED FOR ASSASSINATION. WILLS HAD NO FURTHER INFORMATION AND SAID THAT HE AND BURNHAM, WITH THEIR CONFIDENTIAL

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"SEPARATE INTELLIGENCE NETWORKS" WERE TRYING TO CHECK THESE REPORTS OUT.

4. IN THE MEANTIME, WILLS ASKED, COULD THE US URGENTLY PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT GIL NOBLE AND HIS POLITICAL TIES AS WELL AS THE ALLEGED CONGRESS OF CUBAN EXILES IN MIAMI LAST WEEKEND? IF NOBLE WERE A LEFTIST THIS WOULD LEND CREDENCE TO THE THEORY THAT HAVANA CUBANS WERE SPREADING MISINFORMATION.

5. WILLS ASLFCQNVAFYUNYA# WE PROPNMDNFHI# WITH AS MUCH BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE COOR- (CONTINUED-----)

NOTE BY OC/T: # AS RECEIVED, CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 013413

O 071920Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3356

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 1778

EXDIS

REF: GEORGETOWN 1777 (NOTAL)

DINATION OF UNITED REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS (CORU) ANDTHE FIVE GROUPS WHICH COMPOSE IT. THE INFORMATION HE DESIRED INCLUDES THE NAMES OF THEIR LEADERS AND OF MEMBERS KNOWN TO BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. WILLS GAVE TWO REASONS FOR WANTING THE INFORMATION. FIRST, BECAUSE HE AND GUYANA'S SECURITY PEOPLE WANT TO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY MEMBERS OF THE EXILE GROUPS, SHOULD THEY SEEK TO ENTER GUYANA, AND THUS REDUCE THE CHANCE FOR BOMBINGS OR OTHER TERRORIST ACTS HERE. SECONDLY, HE WANTED TO BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE TO HIS COLLEAGUES THAT THE UNITED STATES IS COOPERATING FULLY WITH THE GOG AND CAN BE TRUSTED.

6. WILLS SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT BOTH THE CUBANS AND THE SOVIETS WANTED TO PREVENT THE GOG FROM MAINTAINING CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED

STATES. A TACTIC WAS TO TRY TO MAKE GUYANA
DEPENDENT UPON THEM FOR INFORMATION AND SECURITY.
BURNHAM TOO WAS BEGINNING TO SUSPECT THIS BUT
THEIR ACTIONS WERE DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY. THE
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CUBAN EMBASSY HERE HAD NOT BEEN IN CONTACT WITH
THE GOG FOREIGN MINISTRY SINCE THE COLOMBO NASC.
HE HAD HEARD THAT THEY WERE HINTING TO OTHER
GOG OFFICIALS THAT HE, WILLS, WAS AN AMERICAN STOOGE.

7. COMMENT: APART FROM THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS
AND POSSIBLE MACHINATIONS OF THE CUBANS, WILLS
ADMITTED THAT HE AND OTHER GOG LEADERS ARE WORRIED
ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF BOMBINGS OR ASSASSINATION
ATTEMPTS IN GUYANA. HE MAY NOT BE AS CERTAIN AS
HE GIVES ME TO BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES
DOES NOT HAVE LINKS TO THE CUBAN EXILE GROUPS.
AT TIMES DURING OUR PAST TWO CONVERSATIONS HE
SEEMED TO ALMOST BE SEEKING PERSONAL
REASSURANCE. HE ALSO INDICATED AT ONE POINT IN
THE CONVERSATION THAT HIS RIVALS IN THE CABINET
WERE LOOKING FOR ANY POSSIBLE EXCUSE TO DESCREDIT
HIM. ALTHOUGH WILLS PROBABLY DOES "GILD THE LILY"
A BIT IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH ME TO MAKE
HIMSELF APPEAR TO BE AN UNDERSTANDING FRIEND
PITTED AGAINST OTHERS NOT SO FRIENDLY, HIS
HANDLING OF THE ALLEGATIONS THAT THE CUBAN EXILES
WHO BOMBED THE GUYANESE CONSULATE IN PORT OF SPAIN
HAD A MIAMI BASE AND MY SEPTEMBER 3 PRESS STATE-
MENT CONCERNING THE BOMBING WAS CLEARLY DESIGNED
TO DEFLATE ALLEGATIONS OF ANY USG LINKS WITH THE
CUBAN EXILE GROUPS. I BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT HE
IS SEEKING TO AVOID FURTHER DETERIORATION IN US-
GUYANESE RELATIONS.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE DEPARTMENT
PROVIDE ME WITH AS MUCH OF THE INFORMATION WILLS
REQUESTED (PARAS 3 AND 4 ABOVE) AS WOULD BE
APPROPRIATE TO GIVE HIM.
BLACKEN

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